

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 6-19, and substitute therefor the following claims:

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--20. Apparatus for cutting sheet material, comprising:
a freely movable unit having a lower part defining a sheet support surface for placing a piece of sheet material;
an upper part defining an upper surface and disposed above said lower part with a gap existing between said upper part and said lower part for receiving the piece of sheet material;

a cutting blade secured in said upper and lower parts, and extending across said gap, said sheet support surface and said upper surface extending to either side of said cutting blade; and,

pressure means mounted on said upper part in said gap for bearing on the piece of sheet material supported by said lower part adjacent to said cutting blade, so that the piece of sheet material is able to be inserted between said pressure means and said sheet support surface for tensioning the piece of sheet material in proximity of said cutting blade.

21. The apparatus for cutting sheet material according to Claim 20, further comprising a holder for said cutting blade between said upper part and said lower part.

22. The apparatus for cutting sheet material according

to Claim 20, wherein said pressure means comprises a freely rotatable wheel, positioned immediately in front of said cutting blade.

B4 23. The apparatus for cutting sheet material according to Claim 20, wherein an upper face of said lower part and a lower face of said upper part are shaped for providing matching sinusoidal surfaces for supporting said upper part and for tensioning said sheet material.

24. The apparatus for cutting sheet material according to Claim 20, further comprising a window provided in said upper part for viewing said sheet material when said sheet material is immediately in front of said cutting blade.--

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of all claims now pending in the above-identified patent application (i.e., Claims 20-24) are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

At the outset, it should be recalled that the present invention provides an apparatus for cutting sheet material, which can be used to cut along other than a straight line, and which, preferably, may be used freely (i.e., without restriction) over the entire area of the sheet of material. Prior to the present invention, conventional cutting appa-